

NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Law Enforcement

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations

Director Bruce Buckson NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement

Council Coordination Committee - May 15, 2014 Virginia Beach, Va.



Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD
Five Divisions co-located with Regional Offices (NE, SE, AK, WC, and PI)
53 field offices throughout the United States and U.S. territories
96 Special Agents - 27 Enforcement Officers - 73 Support Staff



Office of Law Enforcement

- Mission statement
 - Mission and goals team recommended, "The mission of NOAA's
 Office of Law Enforcement is to protect global marine
 resources by enforcing domestic laws and international
 treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and
 their natural habitat for the use and enjoyment of future
 generations."
 - NOTE: OLE is the only federal law enforcement agency fully dedicated to federal fisheries enforcement.



About us

- The Office for Law Enforcement has a mission across all NOAA lines as a matrix program.
- The Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section is the primary legal partner of OLE and prosecutes civil cases.
- The Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Offices are the legal advisors and prosecutorial partners in criminal matters.
- U.S. Coast Guard is our primary federal enforcement partner.

Federal partnerships

U.S. Coast Guard

27 JEA State & U.S. Territory Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Marshals Service

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms

Drug Enforcement Administration

Food & Drug Administration

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Offices









State partnerships



Joint Enforcement Agreements with 27 coastal states and U.S. territories

Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands and Washington



OLE priorities for 2014 - 2015

- Establish our Enforcement Officers Program
 - EO Supervisors hired
 - Vacancy Announcement issued for new EOs.
- Combat IUU Fishing
 - CTAP MOU
 - Interpol
 - International Partnerships
- VMSVMS Program



May 2012 Workforce Analysis & Staffing Plan

Staffing Plan

- The plan will substantially change the composition of OLE's workforce, in part by decreasing the percentage of the workforce that are special agents and increasing the percent that are uniformed enforcement officers who are on the docks helping with compliance and inspecting, and on the water monitoring and patrolling.
- These and other changes will improve our ability to ensure compliance with the law by combining focused and effective criminal enforcement with more extensive compliance assistance, monitoring, patrols, and inspections.



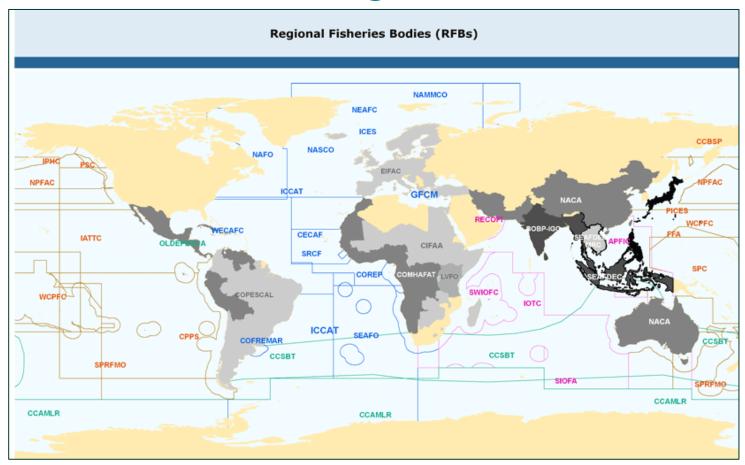
Cooperative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations

- Investigation of IUU fishing activity and trafficking in illegal fish and fish product
- Fisheries Enforcement Capacity Building
- RFMO Participation
- Port State Measures and other IUU-related legislation
- NOAA "Level the Playing Field" Plan 2012





Resource Management: RFMOs



Managing the ocean's living marine resources requires international cooperation on many fronts



Vessel Monitoring System

- Operational Since 1994
- 4,500 active vessels equipped with VMS
- Active in 20 fisheries nationwide
- 7 active monitoring locations
 - HQ
 - NE
 - SE
 - AK (Juneau and Kodiak)
 - NW
 - Pl
- 5 type-approved mobile transmitters



